

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 - 19, 21, 22, 24 - 33, 35, 36, 38 – 44, 46 and 48 are pending for consideration in the present application. Claims 4, 7, 9, 12, 20, 23, 34, 37, 45, 47 and 49 are canceled, wherein claims 45, 47 and 49 are being canceled by the present amendment.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that in section 13 of the Office Action claims 45, 47 and 49 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rather than rewrite claims 45, 47 and 49, Applicants are rewriting independent claims 1, 17 and 31 to include the recitals from claims 45, 47 and 49, respectively.

In the Office Action, claims 1 - 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 - 19, 21, 22, 24 - 33, 35, 36, 38 – 44, 46 and 48 are rejected. As mentioned above, Applicants are rewriting independent claims 1, 17 and 31 to include the allowable recitals, thus placing claims 1, 17 and 31 in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 – 16 and 44 depend from claim 1. Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 24 – 30 and 46 depend from claim 17. Claims 32, 33, 35, 36, 38 – 43 and 48 depend from claim 31. by virtue of these dependencies, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 – 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24 – 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38 – 43, 44, 46 and 48 are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants are requesting reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 - 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 - 19, 21, 22, 24 - 33, 35, 36, 38 – 44, 46 and 48.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this

application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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